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EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER, 1948

SEASONAL INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT DURING NOVEMBER

During the month of November, 1948, the number of wage and salary earners in employment (exclusive of rural workers and females engaged in private domestic services) increased by 13,000 (8,200 males and 4,800 females). Most of this increase was attributable to seasonal causes, such as temporary employment of students as shop assistants, postal workers, etc., to cope with Christmas time business. The increase was shared by all States.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

Of the total increase, 11,000 was in private employment and 2,000 in government employment. The number of State Government employees increased by 900 males and 100 females, while Commonwealth Government employees increased by 700 males and 200 females. Government factories accounted for 300 of the increase in State employees and for 200 of that in Commonwealth employees. Seasonal employment of a temporary nature in connection with the wheat harvest, and in the post office accounted for most of the remaining increase.

INCREASE IN FACTORY EMPLOYMENT

In November, 1946 and November, 1947 employment in factories was adversely affected by the prevailing industrial conditions, but in 1948 comparatively normal conditions prevailed and factory employment increased by 2,236 males and 938 females. The largest increase (1,110 persons) was recorded in the manufacture of food, drink and tobacco, followed in order by metal, machinery and vehicle works, textile mills, clothing factories, treatment of non-metalliferous mine and quarry products, paper and printing works, chemical, etc., factories, rubber works and heat, light and power works. Decreases were recorded in Woodworking and furniture factories, tanneries, etc., the manufacture of musical instruments and miscellaneous articles, jewellery and watchmaking establishments, sawmills, and bricks, pottery and glass works.

CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

Apart from the increase in factory employment the major change in the employment level was a seasonal increase of 7,000 in the Commerce group of which 5,900 was in Retail Trade. Minor increases were 900 in Mining and Quarrying, 800 in Building and Construction, 300 in Health Services, 300 in Entertainment, Sport, etc., 300 in Personal Service, 200 in Transport and 100 in Forestry.

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